

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REFUSENIK TIDBITS

REF: MOSCOW 15744

SUMMARY: REFUSENIKS HAVE HIGH PRAISE FOR PODRABINEK'S COURAGE AND SINCERITY, AND ADMIRE HIS REFUSAL TO TAKE PART IN HIS TRIAL. THEY HAVE GIVEN US THEIR THOUGHTS ON WHY MARIYA SLEPAK RECEIVED SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND PODRABINEK DID NOT. SHCHARANSKIY FAMILY IS UNDERGOING SOME OFFICIAL HARASSMENT. ARINA GINZBURG BELIEVES HER HUSBAND'S HEALTH HAS WORSENERD. MVD COMMANDER IN CHITA TOLD MARIYA SLEPAK THAT HER HUSBAND HAS NOT YET ARRIVED THERE. END SUMMARY.

1. REFUSENIKS' ESTIMATION OF PODRABINEK. SOME REFUSENIKS ARE COMPARING PODRABINEK WITH VLADIMIR BUKOVSKIY, SEEING COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH, COURAGE, MORAL FIRMNESS, EFFECTIVENESS AND MOTIVATION DIVORCED FROM SELF-INTEREST.

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2. STORY MAKING ROUNDS OF REFUSENIK CIRCLES ILLUSTRATES TO THEM HIS COURAGE AND MORAL FIRMNESS, THOUGH PERHAPS WITH A TOUCH OF THE BRASHNESS OF YOUTH. PODRABINEK REPORTEDLY STATED AT HIS TRIAL THAT HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN PROCEEDINGS BECAUSE HIS REQUESTS FOR WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE POSSIBLE A MEANINGFUL DEFENSE

HAD BEEN REJECTED. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT EVEN WISH TO BE IN COURTROOM, BUT JUDGE REFUSED TO RELEASE HIM. HE BEGAN TO SMOKE, AND WAS IGNORED. HE WHISTLED, STILL IGNORED. HE THEN SAID THAT HE WAS SICK IN HIS STOMACH. JUDGE ASKED WHY. HE REPLIED THAT EVERYTIME HE LOOKED AT PROCURATOR HE GOT NAUSEOUS. HE WAS REMOVED FROM COURTROOM.

3. SENTENCES GIVEN TO PODRABINEK AND MARIYA SLEPAK. REFUSENIK SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT IN THEIR VIEW SUSPENDED EXILE SENTENCE GIVEN TO MRS. SLEPAK WAS RESPONSE TO U.S. "ECONOMIC SANCTIONS." PODRABINEK, ON OTHER HAND, DID NOT RECEIVE SUSPENDED SENTENCE BECAUSE "SANCTIONS" WERE WEAKENED. (COMMENT: THIS INTERPRETATION IS CONSISTENT WITH VIRTUALLY UNIVERSALLY HELD REFUSENIK VIEW REPORTED REFTEL THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES MAKE CONCESSIONS ONLY IN FACE OF HEAVY PRESSURE.)

4. HARASSMENT OF SHCHARANSKIY FAMILY. SOVIET POLICE WENT THROUGH HOME OF SHCHARANSKIY'S PARENTS ABOUT A WEEK AGO, OSTENSIBLY TO CARRY OUT PORTION OF COURT ORDER IN ANATOLIY'S CASE WHICH DIRECTED CONFISCATION OF HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS. THEY MADE LIST WHICH INCLUDED ALMOST EVERYTHING IN APARTMENT. IN ORDER TO RETAIN LISTED ITEMS WHICH WERE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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ANATOLIY'S, HIS PARENTS WILL HAVE TO PETITION COURT TO HAVE SUCH ITEMS REMOVED FROM LIST.

5. SLEPAK STILL NOT IN CHITA. MARIYA SLEPAK TELEPHONED MVD COMMANDER IN CHITA ON AUGUST 18 AND WAS TOLD HE HAD NOT YET ARRIVED.

6. GINZBURG'S HEALTH. AFTER HER AUGUST 18 MEETING WITH HER HUSBAND, ARINA GINZBURG REPORTEDLY IS MORE THAN EVER CONCERNED ABOUT HIS HEALTH. HE IS SUFFERING FROM PELLAGRA, ACCORDING TO REFUSENIK SOURCES WHO SPOKE WITH HER, AS WELL AS BEING TREATED WITH INJECTIONS FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. HE REPORTEDLY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IS IN THE INJECTIONS. HE HAS LOST ALL OF HIS TEETH. TOON

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